

# RETRACTABLE SAFETY SYRINGE

## BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

### 1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a retractable safety syringe having a simple structure, which allows ready assembly and safe use and disposal of the syringe so as to prohibit re-use of the syringe.

### 2. Description of Related Art

Hypodermic syringes are used to deliver medicine fluids in a safe and hygienic manner to patients. However it is found that for various reasons some syringes are re-used and this can result in transfer of diseases to the people injected with the re-used syringes. Thus there are various single-use-only safety syringes designed and produced to enable users to readily operate and dispose the syringes after finishing an injection procedure. The conventional safety syringe comprises a retractable needle which allows the needle to be connected with the plunger rod and retracted into the syringe barrel after finishing of the injection procedure.

However, the conventional safety retractable syringes still have some disadvantages which are as follow.

1. Most of the conventional retractable safety syringes are difficult to use due to their complex structure and multi-components configuration. The complex structure of the conventional syringe also decreases the efficiency of manufacturing and increases the manufacturing costs.

2. Some conventional syringes still have medicine residue in the syringe barrel when the plunger rod is fully extended into the syringe barrel, so that the needle is not properly connected with the plunger rod, which results in that the needle can not be

1 retracted into the syringe barrel.

2 3. Also because of the complicated structure of some conventional syringes, the  
3 medicine fluid is not able to directly flow from the barrel towards the needle of the syringe,  
4 whereby some air bubbles occur in the medicine fluid. These bubbles can be harmful to a  
5 patient who may already be in poor health.

6 Therefore, it is an objective of the invention to provide an improved  
7 single-use-only and disposable retractable safety syringe to mitigate and/or obviate the  
8 aforementioned problems.

#### 9 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

10 The main object of the present invention is to provide an improved retractable  
11 safety syringe comprising a needle mount fixed at an upper end of a syringe barrel, a  
12 plunger rod movably fitted in the syringe barrel and a needle fixed on the needle mount.  
13 Wherein the needle mount is integrated with an outer hub and an inner hub, the inner hub  
14 has a plurality equal-spaced spring clamps formed at a lower end of a fluid passage defined  
15 in a center thereof. The plunger rod consists of a rod and a plunger detachably connected at  
16 an upper end of the rod. The plunger is formed with a plunger crown having a cone-shaped  
17 tip end portion formed on a top thereof and a neck portion formed between the tip end  
18 portion and the plunger crown. When the plunger rod is fully fitted into the syringe barrel,  
19 the tip end portion is inserted into the fluid passage, and the neck portion is clamped by the  
20 spring clamps. The medicine fluid retained in the syringe barrel is able to flow over gaps  
21 between each two adjacent spring clamps, therefore the medicine fluid retention in the  
22 syringe is minimized, and the needle and needle mount are able to be retracted into the  
23 syringe barrel after finishing an injection procedure.

24 A further object of the invention is to provide an improved retractable safety

1 syringe having a configuration feature that ensures ready assembly and use of the syringe.

2 Yet another object of the invention is to provide an improved retractable safety  
3 syringe having a simple structure, which enables the medicine fluid to directly flow in a  
4 substantially direct way from the syringe barrel over the fluid passage towards the needle.

5 Other objects, advantages and novel features of the invention will become more  
6 apparent from the following detailed description when taken in conjunction with the  
7 accompanying drawings.

#### 8 BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

9 Fig. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a first embodiment of a retractable safety  
10 syringe in accordance with the invention;

11 Fig. 2 is a cross sectional assembly view of the first embodiment of the retractable  
12 safety syringe in accordance with the invention;

13 Figs. 3 is an exploded perspective view of a second embodiment of the retractable  
14 safety syringe in accordance with the invention;

15 Fig. 4 is a cross sectional assembly view of the second embodiment of the  
16 retractable safety syringe in accordance with the invention; and

17 Figs. 5, 6 and 7 are schematic operation views of the retractable safety syringe in  
18 accordance with the invention.

#### 19 DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

20 With reference to Figs. 1 and 2, a first embodiment of a retractable safety syringe  
21 in accordance with the invention is shown. The retractable safety syringe comprises a  
22 syringe barrel (10) for receiving of medicine fluid, a needle mount (20) securely assembled  
23 at an upper end of the syringe barrel (10), a plunger rod (30) movably fitted in the syringe  
24 barrel (10), and a needle (40) fixed on the needle mount (20).

1 The syringe barrel (10) is a tubular member having a fixing hole (12) defined in an  
2 upper end thereof, a retaining edge (14) integrated around an internal surface near the  
3 upper end thereof, a thumb press (16) formed at a lower end thereof, and an annular  
4 retaining groove (18) defined around the internal surface near the lower end thereof.

5 The needle mount (20) is assembled in the fixing hole (12) of the syringe barrel (10)  
6 and limited by the retaining edge (14). The needle mount (20) has an outer hub (22) and an  
7 inner hub (24) integrally formed therewith, wherein the outer hub (22) has an upper end  
8 thereof defined with a plurality of notches (220), and an internal surface thereof formed  
9 with a female thread (222). The inner hub (24) is defined with a fluid passage in a center  
10 thereof and further has a plurality of equal-spaced spring clamps (240) integrated at a lower  
11 end of the fluid passage and extending in an inclined way toward an upper end of the fluid  
12 passage.

13 The plunger rod (30) consists of a rod (31) and a plunger (32) detachably  
14 connected at an upper end of the rod (31). The rod (31) has a joint block (304) formed at an  
15 upper end thereof, and a press plate (302) integrated at a lower end thereof. The plunger (32)  
16 has a joint groove (320) defined in a lower end thereof to receive the joint block (304) of  
17 the rod (31) detachably fitted therein, and a plunger crown (322) formed at an upper end  
18 thereof. The plunger (32) further has a cone-shaped tip end portion (324) formed on a top  
19 of the plunger crown (322), and a neck portion (326) formed between the tip end portion  
20 (324) and the plunger crown (322).

21 The needle (40) includes a connecting portion (41) and a needle cannula (42). The  
22 connecting portion (41) of the needle (40) has a male thread (402) formed therearound  
23 corresponding to the female thread (222) formed around the internal surface of the outer  
24 hub (22) of the needle mount (20), whereby the needle (40) is threadingly engaged on the

1 needle mount (20). The plurality of notches (220) formed around the outer hub (22) is  
2 intended to facilitate positioning of the needle mount (20) to be properly positioned in a  
3 fixture of an assembly line for production of the syringe.

4 As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, a second practicable embodiment of the invention has a  
5 structure basically in the same principal as the first embodiment of the retractable safety  
6 syringe. In the second embodiment, instead of the plurality of notches (220), the outer hub  
7 (22) of the needle mount (20) of the syringe has a plurality of chamfers (220') formed  
8 around an external surface thereof. The plurality of chamfers (220') is also intended to  
9 facilitate positioning of the needle mount (20) in the fixture of the assembly line.

10 Now with reference to Figs. 5, 6 and 7, when the plunger rod (30) is moved from  
11 the lower end to the upper end of the syringe barrel (10), because the plunger crown (322)  
12 is particularly made of an elastic material, a peripheral edge of the plunger crown (322)  
13 abuts tightly against the internal surface of the syringe barrel (10). Then the cone-shaped  
14 tip end portion (324) is inserted into the fluid passage of the needle mount (20), because  
15 there are gaps defined between each two adjacent spring clamps (240), the medicine fluid  
16 retained in the syringe barrel (10) is still able to flow over the gaps of the spring clamps  
17 (240) towards the needle (40). The spring clamps (240) are first pressed outward by the  
18 cone-shaped tip end portion (324) to let the tip end portion (324) pass therethrough, and  
19 then spring inwardly to clamp the neck portion (326) so as to prohibit the tip end portion  
20 (324) from disengagement from the spring clamps (240). After finishing an injection  
21 procedure, a user can readily retract the plunger rod (30), then the needle (40) and the  
22 needle mount (20) are together retracted into the syringe barrel (10). When the plunger  
23 crown (322) moves up to the annular retaining groove (18), the peripheral edge of the  
24 plunger crown (322) is extended outwardly by its resilient force and limited in the retaining

1 groove (18), so that the needle (40) and the plunger (32) are retained within the syringe  
2 barrel (10). Finally the rod (31) is detached from the plunger (32), and the used syringe of  
3 the invention can be safely disposed without fear of it being reused.

4 The retractable safety syringe of the invention has following advantages:

5 1. The structure of the retractable safety syringe is simple, whereby the medicine  
6 fluid in the syringe barrel (10) flows over the fluid passage of the needle mount (20)  
7 towards the needle (40) until the plunger (32) is fully extended into the syringe barrel (10)  
8 and the plunger crown (322) contacts the lower end of the needle mount (20), thus the  
9 medicine fluid retention in the syringe barrel (10) is minimized.

10 2. The medicine fluid in the safety syringe of the invention directly flows from the  
11 syringe barrel (40) over the fluid passage in a substantially direct way towards the needle  
12 (40), so that air bubbles are easily obviated.

13 3. Due to the simple structure of retractable safety syringe, the components of the  
14 retractable safety syringe are easily molded and assembled under low production cost and  
15 high production efficiency.

16 4. The structure of the present invention ensures that the tip end portion (324) is  
17 able to be inserted into the fluid passage of the inner hub (24) until the neck portion (326) is  
18 clamped by the spring clamps (240), so that the needle mount (20) is properly engaged with  
19 the plunger rod (30), and the user can easily withdraw the plunger rod (30) to retract the  
20 needle (40) in the syringe barrel (10). When the plunger crown (322) moves up to the  
21 annular retaining groove (18), the peripheral edge of the plunger crown (322) is extended  
22 outwardly by its resilient force and limited in the retaining groove (18), so that the needle  
23 (40) and the plunger (32) are retained within the syringe barrel (10), and the used syringe of  
24 the invention can be safely disposed without fear of it being reused.

1           5. Because the outer hub (22) of the needle mount is formed with a configuration  
2 feature to facilitate assembly of the needle (40), the safety of operation of the syringe is  
3 ensured.

4           It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and  
5 advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description,  
6 together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is  
7 illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size,  
8 and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated  
9 by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

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